

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 07781.0013

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Stefan HACK et al.

Application No.: 09/609,714

Filed: June 30, 2000

For: VALUE CHAIN OPTIMIZATION
SYSTEM AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED
APR 12 2002
GROUP 3600

Group Art Unit: 2761
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

RECEIVED

SEP 06 2002

GROUP 3600

RECEIVED

APR 12 2002

Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including a copy of the identified book, are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

English translations of a portion of each of the two non-English documents are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

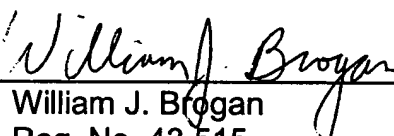
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 10, 2002

By:


William J. Brogan
Reg. No. 43,515

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com